EUPHORBIA IPECACUANHA.

Ipecacuanha spurge.

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PLATE LII.

From the specific name given to this vegetable we infer, that before the true origin of the officinal ipecacuanha was known, this plant, among others, was for a time considered the source of that drug. The Pharmacopœia Danica was one of the works in which this reference was made, and Linnæus undoubtedly paid some respect to the opinion in assigning the specific name.

Nearly all the species of Euphorbia appear to possess the power of acting with violence on the stomach and alimentary canal. This power particularly resides in a milky juice which they exude on being wounded. Of the species which have been most extensively submitted to experiment are Euphorbia officinarum, esula, heliosco-